



Hamilton County Emergency Management

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Hamilton County Outdoor Warning Siren Activation Protocol

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Preface:

Outdoor Warning Sirens are intended to notify people who are **OUTSIDE** that there is a severe weather situation occurring and they should seek shelter immediately. They are **NOT** intended to warn you if you are inside a structure. Hamilton County Emergency Management encourages everyone to purchase a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Alert Radio, download the latest "smart phone" application for weather, and stay tuned to local media resources to warn you of severe weather, day or night, when you are inside your home.

Note:

Please note that Hamilton County EMA does not own/maintain any of the sirens in Hamilton County. They are all owned /maintained by the municipality in which they are located. Emergency Management only activates the system when needed.

Activation of Outdoor Warning Sirens in Hamilton County

- 1) When the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning for all or parts of Hamilton County.
 - a. If the warning is issued for the entire county, all sirens are activated. If the warning only covers part of the county, only the sirens of the communities within the warning polygon are activated.
- 2) If a funnel cloud or tornado is sighted by public safety personnel or Emergency Management storm spotters who are trained by the NWS.
- 3) At the discretion of the Emergency Operations Center staff, or based on storm spotter reports, such as a straight line wind event that is causing damage.
- 4) If a municipal official (Police Chief, Fire Chief, Mayor, etc) requests the activation of their sirens.

Duration of Siren Activation:

- 1) ***NEW*** Sirens will activate in the "warning area" on a 5 minute on 5 minute off rotation for the duration of the warning polygon area.
 - a. ***Note*** Sirens are divided into municipal or township geo locations therefore if part of a municipality or township is under a "warning area" all of the sirens in the geo area will activate

Special Considerations:

- 1) During the annual morning/evening statewide tornado drills in March. This is because the National Weather Service issues actual Tornado Warnings for this event.

Testing:

- 1) Every Friday at 11AM Sirens will sound for 1 minute to test **all** capabilities unless the temperature is below 32 degrees (in case moisture gets in the gears and freezes, it may break something) or if the weather is bad (so the public doesn't think a Tornado Warning has been issued).